Parks in Germany

Is Germany a country of parks as well? Indeed it is. There is the magnificent Englischer Garten in Munich, the blossoming gardens around the river Alster in Hamburg, the flower beds of the German Federal Garden Show in the capital, Bonn, situated on the Rhine, and over a thousand other parks including whole forests. Again and again the landscape thickens to a park. Where a park transcends the borders of a town and takes over the woody hills both architects and gardeners sail with the wind. A good example is the Gruga Park in Essen, in the Ruhr area: it was laid out in 1929 and comprises waterworks, a botanic garden and exhibition halls. Or the Wilhelmshoehe mountain park at Kassel: in its midst is the residence built in 1786 which was temporarily occupied by Napoleon III. Or Ludwigsburg on the Neckar, baroque palace and park and fairy-tale garden. The beautiful ... on the island of Mainau on Lake Constance, on the other hand, a different kind: here the Swedish Count Bernadotte looks after his gardens with Mediterranean vegetation. Why not make a tour through the parks of Germany?



Ludwigsburg

Gruga-Park/Essen

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 28 September 1980
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UN honour a yardstick of German stature

The United Nations is an offspring of the Second World War and of hopes of a better, more peaceful world order. The rise to power of a second Hitler was to be forestalled.

That was why two provisions aimed specifically at the erstwhile enemy states were included in the UN Charter.

Now, 35 years later, a German has been elected president of the General Assembly. But he does not represent the German Reich, one of the enemy states in question.

He represents one of the two German states that have come into being on the territory of the Reich and in succession to it.

Gratified though we may be that a German has been entrusted with one of the highest-ranking honorary appointments world affairs have to offer, we would do well not to forget this distinction entirely.

Had Franklin Roosevelt's naive hopes of a better world order been fulfilled, it is unlikely that a German would now have been granted this honour.

But in their stead a development began that set seal to the division of Germany and the world and saddled sincere founder-members of the United Nations with fresh "enemies."

What is more, these enemies were, unlike the Axis powers of World War II, founder-members of the United Nations too.

This development testifies to the dilemma faced by both the UN and the Germans. Given the state of affairs at the United Nations the GDR's ambassador to the UN might conceivably have been voted General Assembly president instead.

A country does not have to be peace-loving or boast irreproachable democratic credentials for its representative to be voted into the chair at a UN General Assembly.

Would we have been equally gratified if not Bonn's Rüdiger von Wechmar but East Berlin's Peter Florin had been elected president?

This is not to detract from the honour bestowed on either Herr von Wechmar or Bonn, but it must be borne in mind that Germany owes its renewed rise to recognition and repute to the division of the world.

It has also had to pay the price of a divided Germany, with both German states taking good care to be utterly reliable as partners in their respective blocs.

West Germans are not alone in being someone again, to use Ludwig Erhard's phrase; the GDR has also gained international standing, albeit eclipsed by that of the Federal Republic.

Are these no more than mere marginal historical reminiscences? No indeed. A number of corollaries follow, such as that the unequal German twins, eyeing one another mistrustfully at the UN, must refrain from submitting their reciprocal problems to the General Assembly.

Intra-German squabbles are not an issue that interests the United Nations. If they were, von Wechmar would not be current president of the General Assembly.

War guilt as the root cause of the division of Germany would still be too clearly imprinted on the collective mind.

If, on the other hand, the election of a German as president of the UN General Assembly were the sole outcome of our UN membership and our renunciation of active pursuit of national unity and freedom, we should hardly have grounds for either pride or satisfaction.

The Bonn Opposition long viewed UN membership as a hollow distinction; it probably does so to this day. But what might have happened if Bonn had not resolved to apply for UN membership?

National unity and freedom would not have been even remotely closer prospects. Bonn would have had great difficulty in gaining greater political leeway (especially as UN membership was a result of the East bloc treaties and the policy of detente).

Dependent on the United States, Bonn would have remained to a much greater extent at the receiving end in East-West disputes.



American Secretary of State Edmund Muskie (left) and Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher brief each other between sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. (Photo: dpa)

In the wake of the EEC and Nato, the UN provided Bonn with a new field in which to gain an international standing consonant with its economic weight.

The Federal Republic has not elbowed its way into this role; it merely came its way just as a greater say in Nato did: both on account of its own weight and as a result of a weaker US position.

In Nato Bonn has shouldered this burden; at the UN it is still reluctant to do so and far from clear as to the opportunities at its command.

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has nonetheless appreciated more clearly than either Chancellor Schmidt or the Opposition the importance of the United Nations, which nowadays is by and large a Third World forum.

East-West disputes are no longer settled in Europe to any great extent, and the Bonn government is rightly opposed to a full reversion to settling East-West scores on the Continent.

The Soviet Union chose to intervene not in Europe but in Angola, Ethiopia and Afghanistan. The East-West conflict nowaways largely takes place in the Third World.

So if you want to help uphold the freedom and independence of threatened nations, that is where you must do it.

Bonn cannot do so with weapons, which almost invariably arrive too late in any case, but only with material assistance. And it cannot do so alone.

This is why the North-South dialogue is no less important than the East-West dialogue, and it happens to take place within a UN framework.

UN majorities may be unpredictable at times but they are by no means a write-off as far as the West is concerned, as the Afghanistan vote showed.

Caution is advisable, especially when it comes to the developing countries' views on international economic affairs. But Bonn would be no means stand to lose by taking a more active foreign policy part at the United Nations.

Dieter Schröder

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 September 1980)

IN THIS ISSUE

Session bogs down in a war of words

For three weeks delegates to the 11th special session of the UN General Assembly, held in New York to discuss development affairs, told each other the conference could not possibly fail.

It could not afford to do so, they said, because everyone was sitting in one boat, the future was at stake and so on.

But their appeals were to no avail. In the end the conference produced no more than seemingly endless verbiage and reams of paper.

The joint bid to scale development policy hurdles the industrialised and developing countries had set out to launch was paved with obstacles and no-one broke the tape.

The reason for failure in the nature of the New York conference itself. There is little getting down to brass tacks nowadays at the UN General Assembly; instead delegates generously apportion blame and protest their own innocence.

The whole sterile character of the one-country one-vote system is evident at UN divisions in which the 120 or so Third World countries almost unanimously vote against the West.

At the special session, which was no exception, anti-Western majorities were trundled out in conveyor-belt fashion by a bloc in which the plaintiff also assumes the role of judge and jury.

Bonn, which in company with Washington and Whiteball stymied a number of Third World wishes, was in the sin bin as usual, having lashed out in self-defence again to the best of its ability.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher took on this tough assignment in person. With greater emphasis than in the past he told the gathering of 153 states it was high time the socialist countries made an appropriate contribution towards development aid.

The East bloc is happy to allow the West pride of place as paymaster-general

Continued on page 2

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Guns before butter upshot of arms race madness

An estimated 500bn will be invested in armaments this year. Dollars or deutschemarks? You may ask. But does it really matter?

The 10 countries with the most powerful armed forces in the world include half a dozen that cannot be rated as other than developing countries.

Of the remaining four, Turkey and the Soviet Union may fairly be rated in need of development; the United States and West Germany alone can be considered developed.

A fresh round in the strategic arms build-up can be expected in the United States as a result of Moscow catching up with Washington (whereupon the Kremlin will doubtless return the favour).

What could testify more clearly to the fearful madness that characterises the military sector? It is a case of guns before butter all over the world even though very few countries can possibly afford both.

This, then, is the backcloth against which Mr Muskie and Mr Gromyko met in New York. Can the vicious circle of the arms race be brought to a halt or is it doomed to spiral on to some bitter end or other?

Never has the world seen anything like it. It used to be matter of guns and ships. Numbers were less important, since the various sides were not as well informed as they are today by terrestrial intelligence and spy satellites.

Targets can now be hit to within 200 metres from a distance of 200,000 kilometres. The Americans cannot bear the thought of being even equalled in terms of technological excellence.

America and Russia agreed by the terms of Salt 1 and Salt 2 to ceilings for intercontinental strategic missiles, but the Russians promptly made sure there was still an intermediate-range missile to which no such restrictions applied.

This category was far from tactical from a European point of view, however. Capable of hitting targets anywhere in Europe, missiles with a range of 1,000km are of strictly strategic importance to Europeans.

What is more, Nato still does not have an answer to this.

Western Europe, led by West Germany, has in all moderation taken the only logical decision in resolving to m[illegible] ise its missile arsenal but allowing [illegible] concerned three years in which to [illegible] it over.

This is the time it will take [illegible] first Nato missiles to counter the [illegible] SS-22s to be deployed in Europe.

But what has been the Soviet [illegible] sponse? Russia has stepped up its [illegible] with the result, according to the I[illegible] tute of Strategic Studies, that a fresh [illegible] 20 is aimed at Western Europe [illegible] five days (it used to be one every [illegible] days). Moscow is setting up no fewer [illegible] three additional missile systems [illegible] ranges of up to 1,000km – strategic [illegible] ough in significance given European [illegible] tances.

Nato has so far not allowed itself to be perturbed by Soviet threats. If [illegible] were allowed to deploy all these [illegible] without a Nato response, it would [illegible] be long before they were used to [illegible] mail Europe.

There can already be no doubt [illegible] absolutely essential feature of this [illegible] round of East-West talks if the vi[illegible] circle is to be broken.

Europe must be included in the [illegible] terms of reference and preferably [illegible] sulted as an equal partner.

Above all, however, strategic arms li[illegible] mitations must somehow put paid to [illegible] deadly technological arms race; [illegible] must not be restricted to mere mean[illegible] less numbers. *Hans-Joachim Nimtz*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 18 September 19

German bishops tread with care in Poland

Cardinal Höffner of Cologne says he and his party of Roman Catholic bishops discussed political issues merely in passing, as it were, in their talks with Polish counterparts.

If political issues are taken to mean recent events in Poland, this self-restraint was well-advised.

Yet despite Cardinal Höffner's protestations to the contrary, there still are substantial political differences of viewpoint between Polish and German Catholics.

They can be attributed to the past that was so often conjured in the course of what can only be termed a pilgrimage by the German bishops.

Comments by Bavarian Education Minister Hans Maier on the Oder-Neisse line did, after all, lead the Polish Catholics to stay away from the West German Roman Catholic congress in Berlin and the anniversary celebrations of Cologne Cathedral.

Professor Maier may not be a bishop but he is the highest-ranking representative of the Roman Catholic laity.

Were the bishops not briefed on Polish criticism of his comments? Ought they not to have discussed it very seriously indeed in Poland?

Cardinal Höffner is right when he says we must not concentrate exclusively on the past. But future prospects are overcast as long as the present is upset by uncertainty.

The Polish hosts made a noteworthy gesture in allowing their West German visitors to include in their itinerary the former German Eastern territories.

The German party signally failed to respond with an appropriate gesture of its own.

All it can be said to have done is to persevere with the task of reconciliation. In view of the past, of course, that alone must by no means be underestimated.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 16 September 1980)

Turkey a case of backing vital interests

Bonn Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer is reported as having lamented that aid to Turkey seemed to be a never-ending task.

Figures to illustrate this cry from the heart are readily marshalled:

- *In mid-April the OECD promised Turkey a $ 1.6bn loan facility. This followed a 1979 credit line of $ 900m. Bonn's share totalled $ 675m.*
- At the end of June the EEC promised the ousted Demirel government DM1.5bn within the framework of a five-year plan. About a third of this total was to be a special 40-year loan.
- The International Monetary Fund has granted Turkey a $ 1.6bn standby credit for the next three years.
- This year the World Bank is due to remit Turkey a further $ 260m.

What is the point of listing figures that all told amount to foreign debts totalling about 18bn? It is, simply and irksomely, that Turkey's problems are not just the Ankara government's concern.

The list also makes a mockery of Western claims that billion-dollar loans to bail out Turkey might salvage democracy on the Bosphorus.

In the circumstances the statement by the EEC Council of Ministers in Brussels that the Turkish junta led by General Evren must restore democracy as soon as possible is thoughtless, if not cynical.

Which democracy can the ministers possibly mean? A democracy that in its dying days cost 30 terrorist murders a day? The inability of political parties to agree to a Presidential candidate in m[illegible] than 80 polls?

Or do they mean the deep rift be[illegible] tween rich and poor, between town a[illegible] country that neither the Ecevit nor [illegible] Demirel administrations were able to [illegible]

With such a discrepancy betw[illegible] democratic claims and political reality [illegible] is none too difficult to sympathise with the generals who have seized power for the third time (the first two were in 1960 and 1971).

Besides, the armed forces in Turkey can be compared neither with their counterparts in the banana republics of Latin America nor with fascist military dictatorships such as South Korea's.

If a state of emergency and strict discipline were to be used to restore a reasonably stable domestic and foreign policy balance in Turkey, then surely the suspension of Turkish pseudo-democracy would prove beneficial.

This state of affairs may be embarrassing to the West, but what alternative does it have? For geostrategic reasons Turkey cannot on any account be left in the lurch.

So Herr Matthöfer may well be right in suspecting that aid to Turkey will prove a never-ending task. But it is less a matter of democracy than of our own vital interests. *Holger Dohmen*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 21 September 1980)

Continued from page 1

of development aid, and Herr Genscher felt some justification in launching his attack.

Bonn's 0.4-per-cent GNP contribution towards development aid may still be a far cry from the UN target of 0.7 per cent but it is substantially more satisfactory than the East bloc's 0.04 per cent.

In an unusually frank appeal he called on the rich oil-exporting countries to bear in mind, when pricing petroleum, the 92 developing countries dependent on oil imports who are already unable to pay their oil bills.

This year the oil exporters will earn $50bn in exports to the Third World alone, and that is more than the Third World receives in development aid.

Everyone can work out for themselves the gloomy consequences of the oil dilemma. Per capita incomes in the poorest countries are likely to decline still further. Current hardship will grow even worse.

In the long term the industrialised countries could not hope to survive as peaceful islands of prosperity in a sea of despair, as many speakers pointed out.

These were true words, but in view of the meagre outcome of the conference they cannot have made much impression. The view that world problems can only be solved by swift joint action was not reflected in the resolutions approved.

The conference was adjourned until next year, left everything open and, once again, turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to everything.

In the report by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department to President Carter a spate of unprecedented worldwide cooperation is said to be indispensable if imminent catastrophe threatening millions (and maybe billions) of people is to be averted.

This considered opinion is not the view of mustard-keen world improvers or notorious pessimists but of experts who have incorporated international findings in the report.

Report 2000, like the findings of the Brandt Commission, concludes that by the turn of the century the world will be more densely populated, more polluted, ecologically and politically more unstable and more prone to decomposition than the world in which we now live.

Competition for accessible resources in itself runs the risk of world catastrophe, and this abysmal prospect could well be reality in a mere 20 year's time.

Yet the forum that might conceivably arrive at a solution, the United Nations, is proving incapable of action. Instead speeches are made, expense accounts run up and ideologies conserved that have long ceased to have anything in common with the world today.

Speeches, appeals and resolutions will not fill a single hungry belly. And the frontiers to hardship have not been reached yet.

Already 800 million people do not have enough to eat. Soon their numbers will be up to a billion. These are figures that cannot be grasped in terms of preconceived notions or figures of speech. *Gernot Müller-Serten*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 September 1980)

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■ THE UNITED NATIONS

Bonn man in General Assembly chair – over handicaps

Bonn has only been a full member of the United Nations for the past seven years, yet already its ambassador to the UN has been voted president of the General Assembly.

Given the weight West Germany carries in world affairs, a German in the chair at the 35th UN General Assembly might be thought to be a matter of course.

But it can hardly be when one recalls that the UN Charter in two clauses still terms Germany – wartime Axis Germany – an enemy state. As such it is subject to special treatment.

A German at the UN's helm is likewise by no means a matter of course when one bears in mind that if Bonn's new *Ostpolitik* had not put paid to the Hallstein Doctrine in the early 70s the Federal Republic might well still not be represented at the United Nations.

So there is every reason for Bonn President Karl Carstens and politicians of the ruling Social and Free Democratic coalition to voice satisfaction at the election of Rüdiger von Wechmar as General Assembly president.

Whether it is an occasion for jubilation, as Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher claims, is another matter. Bonn has already been saddled with heavy UN responsibilities as a Security Council member in 1977-78.

One could well argue that it is now saddled once and for all with the burden of special responsibility for an organisation that is confronted with all the world's conflicts, including the increasingly serious North-South clash.

Herr von Wechmar realised five years ago that the UN would increasingly be used by the developing countries as a means of achieving their objectives by virtue of their numerical superiority in the General Assembly.

The special session of the UN body on development affairs that has just been wound up is a case in point. At the General Assembly special session the rich and the poor were unable to reach agreement on either procedure or the agenda of so-called global talks to help narrow the prosperity gap between North and South. The newly-elected president of the General Assembly thus faces a tough assignment over and above any other trouble he may have to preside over. At the ordinary session of the UN body he will have to try and smooth the path towards North-South compromise. So Bonn is fortunate in being represented by the Baron, as Herr von Wechmar is known in the United States.

He is one of its most capable diplomats, a former journalist and press spokesman for the Brandt administration and a man with an inimitable ability to combine tact and tactics.

He can be as charming as he is firm in the views he holds. In his opening speech he was critical of his own government, leaving little doubt that he expected his affluent fatherland and other highly developed countries to make serious North-South compromise bids.

This criticism testified to the independent outlook he has felt able to maintain despite being for so long dependent on instructions from Bonn.

"Progress at the UN," he is on record as saying, "can be measured in centimetres at best, whereas a lengthy yardstick is needed to read off the degree of disappointment."

In addition to these qualities he will need the patience of a watchmaker, a precision engineering trade he learnt many years ago as an American prisoner-of-war. *Hans-Herbert Gaebel*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 September 1980)

The chairman of the 35th General Assembly, Rüdiger von Wechmar (right) with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. (Photo: dpa)

Von Wechmar a personal choice of many

The election of a German, Rüdiger von Wechmar, as president of this year's UN General Assembly clearly testifies to the increasing part played by Bonn in world affairs.

But fellow-diplomats feel it also has something to do with Herr von Wechmar himself, West Germany's ambassador to the United Nations.

Delegates of 154 countries elected him, the representative of a country that has only been in full membership with the UN for seven years, partly as an individual.

He is a man they have come to know as a reliable opposite number, an imaginative intermediary and a charming host with a flair for festivities with a note of their own.

He goes about his work with a light hand and an unbureaucratic air. Yet he testifies to Prussian thoroughness in doing his "homework."

He owes this facility to his career in journalism, begun as an American prisoner-of-war after an interlude as a young Afrika-Korps officer.

Wechmar, 56, covered the Nuremberg war trials as a budding German agency reporter, then worked his way to head of United Press's Frankfurt bureau.

Then, like many of his colleagues in the era of post-war reconstruction, the tall ex-officer and gifted linguist opted for a diplomatic career.

He soon became acquainted with the multilateral arena as press attaché at the German consulate-general in New York and at the United Nations.

As head of the German Information Centre in New York he went on to make friends with the jet set, with artists, actors and opera stars.

That is why, at the Wechmars' elegant town house on 65th Street (which dates back, incidentally, to the days of Bonn's Felix von Eckardt), visitors may find themselves attending an Andy Warhol vernissage, a party in honour of Leonard Bernstein's retirement as a conductor or a gathering of stage stars.

The Baron's fellow-diplomats set great store by the stimulating atmosphere the German couple succeed in creating.

Herr von Wechmar is also happy to host pressmen, representatives of his erstwhile career, telling them with a wry expression that at United Press in pre-deutschemark days he earned a salary of 800 reichsmark and two cartons of cigarettes.

After a spell as Eastern Europe correspondent for ZDF, the second channel of West German TV, he finally switched sides to work as press spokesman for the Social and Free Democratic Bonn government of Chancellor Willy Brandt and Foreign Minister Walter Scheel. But even as a state secretary he retained, as head of the Bonn government's Press and Information Office, a clear understanding of press requirements and a confidence in journalists' fairness and reliability that has stood him in good stead in New York as well as Bonn.

At the UN, where there have been two German ambassadors for the past seven years, Rüdiger von Wechmar is synonymous with Germany: a new, hard-working Germany shorn of prejudice and with a ready, open ear to the world. *Gitta Bauer*

(Die Welt, 16 September 1980)

Aid for poorer nations given priority

After a three-week marathon extended more than once the 11th special session of the UN General Assembly in New York has ended with a mixed bag of results.

Its brief was to intensify the North-South dialogue, draft a development strategy for the 80s, embark on a global dialogue on problems between industrialised and developing countries and draw up an agenda for the current decade.

Consideration was also given to a programme of immediate aid to the poorest developing countries proposed by UN secretary-general Kurt Waldheim.

Two resolutions were passed. The first related to the $5bn Waldheim programme of immediate aid to the Third World; the second stressed the critical situation the poorest developing counries face and proposed a 100 per cent increase in aid from donor countries by 1985.

The UN development strategy for the 80s was largely completed but has been referred to the full session of the General Assembly.

The global dialogue, which was to have been held as part of a nine-month special conference next year and supervised by a new, special UN body with wide-ranging powers in New York, has been called into question.

Bonn, Washington and Whitehall do not agree with other UN members and the compromise they have accepted on the powers of the UN Conference on Global Negotiations with regard to UN special agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The issue at stake is whether the UN and the proposed special conference are to have the last word on crucial subjects such as inernational monetary reform, world trade, development aid and energy or UN agencies such as the IMF are to retain their present powers.

At the United Nations every country has one vote, so the Third World countries predominate, whereas in UN special agencies the industrialised countries hold the upper hand by virtue of holding votes in proportion to their capital investment.

The compromise solution envisaged the UN conference next year supervising and coordinating global negotiations.

A package of agreements on major development issues and moot points in North-South ties was, however, only to be passed jointly by all UN member-states.

In other words, the industrialised countries would practically have enjoyed a veto, but America, Britain and Germany felt this was not enough.

They feared the terms of reference of the IMF and other, previously fairly independent UN agencies might be undermined.

In drafting a development strategy for the 80s delegates agreed on the following points:

- Industrialised and donor countries are wherever possible to step up development aid to 0.7 per cent of GNP by 1985. This target is to be reached by the second half of the 80s at the latest and followed by a one-per-cent target for which no deadline was set.
- Third World growth in real terms is to average seven per cent in the 80s. This would mean economic growth in the developing countries at a much faster pace than in the industrialised world so as to help bridge the gap between rich and poor.
- Development and expansion of energy resources must be encouraged to help the developing countries and foster growth in world trade. The industrialised countries are called on to step up energy measures.
- The UN development strategy is to advocate an open system of world trade and protection of private investment all over the world.

Strategy for the 80s will have to be passed by the General Assembly in ordinary session. What matters is for aid and growth percentage targets not to be declared binding.

The donor countries merely undertake to redouble their efforts to reach the targets set. *Peter Bauer*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 September 1980)

■ THE CHURCHES

Paradox of involvement in general election

The dispute over church involvement in the election campaign is full of contradictions and paradoxes.

While the discussion over the *form* of the Catholic pastoral letter soon supplanted the debate over the issue itself, there is a tug-of-war in progress now among the Protestants between all sorts of anti-Strauss pro-Schmidt initiatives and those favouring strict neutrality.

And those who only just rejected one intervention as inadmissible suddenly welcome statements to the opposite effect.

The whole dispute would have been unthinkable if Germany's political tradition did not have a curious penchant for higher, authoritative attitudes.

Even anti-clerical elements welcome spiritual blessing for their critical attitudes.

It is thus indicative and consistent that the chairman of the Campaign Arbitration Committee is a bishop. As a result, there is something ambiguous and dishonest about the hectic discussion over the churches' attitudes.

But what is the actual situation concerning the relationship between church and State, between theology and politics and between authority and citizen?

It is not enough to say that the church should look after its basic values while the politicians go about the business which only they thoroughly understand.

Such a simple division of labour, which Chancellor Schmidt has promoted time and again by quoting the somewhat worn Max Weber maxim of the antithesis of the ethics of conviction and those of responsibility, makes both spheres irrelevant — morals due to incompetence and politics due to lack of moral values.

In view of the loss of credibility of our parliamentary politics and its sterile polarisation, the arrogance of politicians regarding such interventions that call for a return to the very substance is quite out of place.

There is much to be said on this issue — on the style and honesty of the campaign and on the neglect of specific issues because they have been supplanted by selfish interests.

The true questions are: how informed, sound and comprehensive are the admonishments? And who speaks in whose name?

The crux of the democratic process lies in the fact that the complexity of ethical and political challenges must in the end be reduced to a single stand in favour of one party, despite all possible reservations.

The pragmatic fence sitting with regard to any party must give way to an either/or in favour or against a party.

This unavoidable structural falsification of reality due to simplification cannot be perceived with a sweeping claim to truth.

There is a remarkable difference between the two churches. While the official Catholic Church clearly puts all its authority on one side of the scale, the official Protestant Church wants to avoid such an unequivocal stance. As a result, it disapproves of the initiatives of individuals groups. Both attitudes amount to different pseudo solutions to the same dilemma.

Why should people be prevented from speaking in their own name and publicly stating why they exercise their option the way they do, based on a specific and fundamental ethical position — provided their argument is matter-of-fact and mature and they are prepared to put it forward in a critical debate?

Problems only arise when the authority places itself above the citizen and when its stance is orientated by a party rather than the problems at hand and when the dialogue is replaced by an authoritative verdict.

In view of the dynamism inherent in campaigns, there is of course the question as to whether it is worth starting such a dialogue in the last couple of weeks of the campaign.

A closer look at the statement of the voters' initiative on the national elections of "the Protestant Christians", which has been censured as "leftist", we see that this also contains critical elements towards the SPD.

But all that remains in the polarisa-

Continued on page 5

Pastoral letter revives old differences

Relations between the Catholic Church and the Social Democrats have always been burdened by a historic legacy: though this burden has diminished, it has by no means been completely lifted.

Even so, it is surprising that a dispute should have arisen between the rather conservative and conciliatory Chancellor and the German episcopate — a dispute which has taken on polemic traits.

Nobody denies the bishops' right to take a stand on the elections in their pastoral letter and to reiterate their concern over social developments.

Their assessment of the family, marriage and abortion is in keeping with religious ethics and cannot be termed partisan only because it largely coincides with the view of the conservatives. It is therefore safe to assume that the official church would welcome a change of gobernment.

It seems, however, that the bishops had some doubts as to whether an appeal to the conscience alone would prove effective since changed legislation has only adapted to social realities rather than creating them.

The reference in the pastoral letter to our state indebtedness is therefore understandable as an additional lever. But using this lever has opened the church to attack.

The bishops could find themselves embarrassed in the eyes of the public — not only by the angered Chancellor, but also by Bonn Justice Minister Jochen Vogel and his list of questions.

Still, Franz-Josef Strauss will welcome this campaign gift as heaven sent.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 September 1980)

Outspoken bishop first and foremost a pastor

"The church must not be a mute dog where human rights are concerned," Bishop Franz Hengsbach once said, speaking in a down-to-earth manner out of keeping with the customary dignity of a bishop.

Bishop Hengsbach, who has just turned 70, thinks little of such dignity.

He considers himself a pastor first and foremost, and this has earned him much popularity among his flock of 1.4m.

The life of Bishop Hengsbach can only be termed a clerical success story.

Born as the first of eight children (in the Sauerland), he studied theology, made his doctorate and entered the priesthood. In 1937, he was a vicar in Herne and a priest for the Poles in the Ruhr area.

In 1947, he became the secretary-general of the Central Committee of German Catholics for the Preparation of Catholic Congresses. Later, he was appointed assistant-general of the Central Committee.

In 1953, he became the Bishop of Münster and in 1957 he took over the newly created Ruhr bishopric.

From 1971 to 1978 he was the Catholic military bishop.

These stations of his life are incomplete and say little about the man who — though this was frowned upon — saw fit to learn Polish in order to exercise his function as a pastor for Poles.

Bishop Hengsbach, an ardent fan of the Schalke soccer team and a beekeeper, has never beaten around the bush when he thought it necessary to speak up in order to solve social problems. He thus spoke up against the controversial Liberation Theology (which he considered Marxist), against liberalisation of the abortion law and — together with the Protestant clergyman Karl Immer — in favour of a meaningful use of nuclear energy.

It is also part and parcel of the man that he offered to act as a go-between in




Popular . . . Bishop Hengsbach

(Photo: Sven Simon)

connection with the kidnapping of the Essen businessman Albrecht and that he keeps popping up at the work places of his flock.

Henk Ohnesorge

(Die Welt, 10 September 1980)

■ THE PRESS

Council spli[...] on tabloid ethics case

Journalists and publishers of th[...] man Press Council have clash[...] Berlin over the assessment of the [...] ing practice of the tabloid *Bild*.

Although the ten journalists [...] Press Council (an independent [...] instrument of the German pre[...] voured a draft resolution censuring [...] for the "methods of its sensation[...] ing journalism" and failed to gai[n the] necessary two-thirds majority, they [pub-] lished the draft resolution in their [...] city as the journalist members [of the] Council.

The publishers on the Coun[cil...] this "attempt at undermining the [...] rity provisions of the statutes" [...] "serious test" for the Council.

Statutes provide that only adopted [re-] solutions may be made public.

The controversy was sparked by [a dis-] pute during the two-day session [...] whether several previous Council [deci-] sions to censure *Bild* on individual [in-] cidents should be made the basis [of an] overall assessment of the reporting pr[ac-] tice of the Axel Springer tabloid.

Journalists among the Council mem[-] bers told a press conference that th[ey] did not consider it necessary to [...] the paper once more to comment on [...] accusations since this was an ov[erall] assessment that included the indiv[idual] incidents on thich the paper had b[een] heard earlier.

The nine publishers on the Co[uncil] who were present (they, too, have [...] members) held that it would have be[en] "irresponsible" to approve of the resolu[-] tion without having again heard th[e] views of the editor-in-chief and the pub[-] lishers.

The journalists' move was censured [by] the publisher members of the Council as an unprecedented "novelty".

The journalist members stressed th[at] the last Council session in Bonn [...] June) had agreed to turn the condemna[-] tion of individual *Bild* incidents into [an] overall assessment of the paper whe[n] the Council met again in Berlin — es[-] pecially in view of the fact that th[e] paper had clearly ignored the censure.

And they emphasised that the cen[-] sured incidents were not isolated cases due to misconduct on the part of indi[-] vidual staff members. Instead, they clear[-] ly revealed "practices of sensation jour[-] nalism".

The editorial office of *Bild* rebutted the accusations of the ten journalists saying that they were contrary to the most primitive rules of law in a democ[-] racy. It said that this was an attempt to "turn the Press Council into a leftist in[-] strument."

The Press Council had the necessary majority in Berlin to censure two inci[-] dents. After censuring *Bild's* reporting on a suicide case during its last session the Council now lambasted the tabloid in connection with another suicide report.

The daily *Westfalenblatt* was censured for its report "Ponto's Murderer Nab[b-] ed" because this aticipated the subse[-] quent court sentence.

Regarding the obstruction of the re[-] porters' work during the clearing of the Gorleben borehole last June, the Coun[-] cil called on the Minister of the Interior to take the necessary steps to ensure the unhampered work of journalists.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 11 September 1980)

■ THE TRADE UNIONS

Chemical workers keep on straight course

There was no veering to the left at the Mannheim conference of IG Chemie, the chemical workers union. This was surprising or disappointing, depending on one's point of view.

There was no renunciation of the social partnership approach to industrial relations and no reversion to a strategy of industrial conflict.

Karl Hauenschild, who was re-elected union general secretary, reiterated his rejection of demands for public ownership of the means of production, distribution and control.

This could only be taken as a warning aimed at Opposition ranks within the union, which took severe punishment at the conference.

Opposition spokesman Paul Plumeyer was unsuccessful in his bid to gain re-election to IG Chemie's national executive committee.

At a union conference held in the middle of a general election campaign and thus inevitably political in its ramifications majorities had been anticipated for altogether different lines of argument.

Some of the union's rank and file were dissatisfied with the executive. There had been heated debate on constitutional issues. Controversy had raged on democracy within the union.

This was bound to happen even though what trade unions have negotiated in employees' rights over the past 30 years is substantial.

The trade unions have also gained positions of power over the years, nominating supervisory and management board members in the coal and steel industries and supervisory board directors of other leading companies.

IG Metall's general secretary Eugen Loderer, for instance, is deputy chairman of the supervisory board at Volkswagen. Trade unionists hold key positions in industrial management.

Industrial power is, by the unions' terms of reference, something they must seek to keep to within certain bounds, if not stand up and fight against.

The classic role of the working class movement is that of furthering the interests of the powerless wage-earning masses.

It is by no means dishonourable for Opposition ranks within a trade union to recall the fact. But is it, or can it be, realistic?

On management and supervisory boards trade union representatives must of necessity take part in the quest for compromise in management policy.

There is no need to stand on ceremony in so doing, especially as their collaboration has served the cause of social peace in West Germany.

Readiness to compromise is, after all, a *sine qua non* of wage negotiations. Maybe there is some connection between seats on the supervisory board and the ability to come to terms in wage talks.

At all events the Federal Republic of Germany is a country that is not prone to industrial disputes.

Partnership between representatives of capital and labour, which would have been inconceivable in the early days of the trade union movement, has certainly not proved to the detriment of the workers they set out to represent.

Wage- or salary-earners in the Federal Republic are not only materially better off than they were in the Reich, and credit is historically due to the post-war one-industry one-union principle.

Union leaders, naturally enough, are far from overjoyed at having to face opposition from within their ranks. Disputes and rifts would be bound to weaken the unions' position in relation to the employers.

Trade union conferences are thus not parliaments of their organistions; they are assemblies of a lobby. There is an obvious danger of democratic principles suffering as a result.

Paul Plumeyer was voted off the executive at the Mannheim conference of IG Chemie. He too was accused of far from infrequent compromises with the management at Veba-Glas, where he was a supervisory board member.

This only goes to show that Opposition spokesmen can also be hoist by this particular petard. The unions have, when all is said and done, gained positions of power in the course of social partnership. As a result they are no longer the combat organisations they were intended to be in days gone by. *Jürgen Scharf*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 September 1980)

Continued from page 4

tion vortex on the eve of the elections is the exhortation "Vote for Schmidt!"

Even those who soundly argue that an earnest ethical discussion would show that all parties are essentially inadequate (though in varying degress) will find it hard to resist being taken in.

This being so, all attempts to exert influence on the eve of the elections of necessity fall short of the claim to a fundamental debate on the challenges that clearly exist.

A last-minute intervention cannot make up for the deficit of solid discussion in the four years between elections.

So what is there to be learned from the dilemma inherent in the fact that all correct or wrong — and in any event unsuccessful — attempts at spiritual admonishment are being used as cheap ammunition in the campaign?

Probably only this: that the actual discussion on the substance of politics will not begin until after the elections — and that is must then last for four years.

Robert Leicht

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 17 September 1980)

Official faces discipline over book

A Social Democrat official of the teaching and academic staff union faces disciplinary proceedings including possible dismissal because of a book he has written.

Manfred Wilke has, in conjunction with others, written about the long march of the DKP, the orthodox, pro-Moscow Communist Party, through the various corridors of power in West Germany.

It was written before he took up his new job as regional union secretary in Essen at the beginning of April on a six-month probationary period.

The union, GEW, is well-known for the left-wing social views it advocates within the ranks of the West German Trades Union Confederation (DGB).

It is also known not to have too many misgivings about Communist members.

The Communists are claimed often to camouflage their trade union agitation, and the exposé by Manfred Wilke and others reckons to blow the gaffe on their activities.

Wilke's employer, as it were, Ilse Brusis, the GEW state chairman, is also a Social Democrat who not long ago criticised root-and-branch Marxist members of the Social Democratic Party.

The Stamokap (short for state monopoly capitalism) faction was, she said, ideologically a bedfellow of the DKP and preferred merely for tactical reasons to remain in membership with a major political party, the SPD.

Yet while Manfred Wilke was doing his best to work well during his probationary period at GEW regional head office in Essen, trouble was brewing at the powerful Essen and Düsseldorf branches over his authorship of the controversial book.

Branch members were incensed by its disclosures on DKP strategy.

It is hard to say how many open or covert Communists have worked their way into influential positions in the Essen and Düsseldorf GEW branches.

Detlef Schlüpen, press spokesman for the union region, has no personal objections to the foreword of the controversial book, of which Wilke was co-author.

Branch members in Essen and Düsseldorf, he explains, merely feel the regional secretary of a DGB industrial union ought not to pursue union policies against an individual political party in this way.

There was not a union affiliated to the DGB with a clause barring Communists from union membership or activities.

Schlüpen added, however, that there were definitely a substantial number of members who sympathised with Wilke's anti-Communist views.

Ilse Brusis has called a full state executive meeting at which the 32-member body will discuss Wilke's further employment.

Executive members will have to consider whether they are entitled to fire their full-time secretary for views published before he worked for the union.

Many would consider sacking Wilke to be a strong move towards the extreme left of the political spectrum by the North Rhine-Westphalian region of the union.

Frau Brusis has clearly identified the crux of the matter. Is the concept of an all-embracing union covering and entire industry to be taken to mean that no-one is entitled to declare his support for a specific political party?

Or does it mean the exact opposite, that members are entitled to embrace a wide range of party-political views?

Wilke's opponents argue that he has provided enemies of the trade union with ammunition and behaved in a manner likely to cause rifts.

In their bid to rid regional headquarters of an anti-Communist the Düsseldorf and Essen branches even censure him for signing an election campaign appeal on behalf of the Social Democrats. *Hans Wüllenweber*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 17 September 1980)

Vetter hits at outburst of xenophobia

A leading trade unionist has called on union members actively to oppose xenophobia in any form.

Heinz Oskar Vetter, general secretary of the West German Trades Union Confederation (DGB) told a meeting that crimes including murder had been committed against foreigners.

Anti-foreigner slogans were to be seen and many people assumed a superior attitude towards foreigners.

All this, he told 290 delegates at the Wiesbaden conference of the commercial, banking and insurance employees union (HBV), was an alarming sign of democratic immaturity.

Trade unionists in the Federal Republic of Germany ought not only to steer clear of this type of behaviour but also be seen to oppose them. The consolidation of democracy and the welfare state and the reliability of democrats were best judged by how they treated minorities and foreigners.

Herr Vetter said the hostile acts aimed at foreign nationals of late were a dreadful development. "We called on foreign workers to lend a hand and they have helped to safeguard and extend the country's prosperity," he said.

Besides, Germany was under a historic obligation to offer a home to the persecuted. But violent clashes between extremist groups of foreigners must be combated with the full rigour of the law.

He also warned against efforts to sow the seeds of division in industrial unions with accusations of Communist infiltration. This was in effect a gesture of support for the union he was addressing.

He stressed, however, that unions must, in their own interest, take care to ensure that their inner balance and stability were maintained. Repulsing attacks from outside sources must not be allowed to nip in the bud indispensable internal discussion and clarification of viewpoints.

HBV was in a difficult stage of its development and would be well advised to seek its future in the hard work of daily trade union activities such as wage negotiations, educational and social policy.

"They," he said, "are the backbone of trade union policy, not disputes over matters of principle."

Referring to the general election campaign, Herr Vetter said the unions would continue to pursue their social policy objectives and to advocate both reform and detente.

They would comprehensively defend the interests of wage- and salary-earners. The DGB was not a section, appendage or showcase of any specific political party; it remained politically independent.

It was not, however, impartial when it came to representing the interests of the working class.

It was too easy and cheap to use Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss as a whipping boy to foster fears of fascism, he said. It also diverted attention from the real problems.

Referring to the fact that many trade unionists were members of the CDU and CSU, the Opposition parties Herr Strauss represented, he said the crucial feature of an industrial union was variety of political views held by members of the one union.

rlr

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 September 1980)

■ ENERGY

Oil companies' pricing policies spawned Opec movement

Saudia Arabia has increased the price of its oil by two dollars a barrel. The general Opec price of 32 dollars a barrel has been dropped to 30 dollars, so prices are now in alignment. Decisions by Opec countries such as this are watched with bated breath by everyone. For this reason, it is a little difficult to imagine that this powerful organisation began 20 years ago merely as a defence mechanism against the mighty oil concerns. When they established Opec in Baghdad in September 1960, the oil-producing countries hoped that they had founded an instrument to work against the multinationals. But it took another 13 years before Opec came into its own.

Handelsblatt
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

The oil-producing countries complained when, 20 years ago, the powerful oil companies set the price of crude at one dollar a barrel.

In 1959 and 1960, the posted price was twice reduced.

The multinationals had gone too far, and the reaction was the establishment of a concept of an oil-producing nations' cartel.

Barely half of the posted price went to the producing nation in those days, and the two cuts meant that the posted price of Saudi Arabian oil dropped from 2.12 dollars per barrel to 1.94 dollars and later to 1.84.

As a result, Saudi Arabia's oil price fell by 17 per cent within 12 years.

These price reductions were made possible by new oil finds in Libya and Nigeria.

This was the straw that broke the camel's back — though the multinationals are not the only culprits in having brought about such a powerful organisation as Opec. If it had not been the multis, some other incident would have had the same effect.

Awareness of dependence on crude

The oil-producing countries were becoming increasingly aware of the Western industrialised nations' dependence on crude.

In September 1960, the government of Iraq summoned a conference of oil producing countries Venezuela, Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The venue was Baghdad and the result of the meeting was the formation of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The first conferences were still dominated by haggling over the statutes, the budget, the organisational structure and administrative details. The actual aim of the organisation was far from achieved — except in verbal tirades.

Essentially, Opec marked time until 1971. All that came of it were many resolutions, studies, conferences, discussions and statements. The oil price, the actual issue at stake, rose to a meagre 2.97 dollars per barrel by the beginning of 1973.

Even so, some other oil producing countries watched the development of Opec — which was anything but encouraging — with some interest.

The organisation was joined by Qatar in 1961, Indonesia and Libya in 1962, Abu Dhabi in 1967, Algeria in 1969 and Nigeria in 1971. Ecuador and Gabon and the United Arab Emirates had joined by 1974, and Opec was complete.

The development of Opec is most easily traced by looking at it in the light of the development of oil prices. The graph between 1960 and 1973 shows a gentle upward curve, as opposed to the dramatic rises we have had since 1973. Per barrel prices rose from 1.80 to 3 dollars between 1960 and 1973. As a result, Opec barely deserved to be called a cartel.

The political chasm between such moderate countries as Saudi Arabia and the radical systems in Algeria, Libya and Iraq left little scope for action.

It was not until Israel's "October War" that the moderates picked up the cudgels on behalf of the Arab cause and made Opec a force to be reckoned with.

Sweeping nationalisation of the oil companies gave the governments concerned the power to dictate the price of crude.

Production was reduced and an embargo imposed on Israel and its allies.

Opec thus not only exerted political pressure on Israel but also created enormous demand. The price of oil trebled between 1973 and 1974, rising to more than 10 dollars per barrel.

This was due to structural changes which turned the oil market into a seller's rather than a buyer's market.

While the buyer's market had undervalued the price of oil, the seller's market drove it up. It was not governed by a reasonable profit margin but by the shortage of crude.

In the case of oil, all elements that would justify a shortage-dictated price came together: The small quantity pf available crude was combined with the high degree of the consumers' dependence and the difficulty and cost of alternative energy sources.

Between 1974 and 1978, the graph shows a steadily rising price curve to the point of 13.30 dollars per barrel. Opec showed restraint during that period, and this becomes particularly clear when viewing the price development in real rather than nominal terms, i.e. in relation to inflation rates.

Taking 1974 with its 10 dollars per bbl for Arabian light as a base and adjusting this for inflation, we arrive at a per barrel price of 8.44 dollars for 1975, 9.09 for 1976, 9.07 fpr 1977, 8.38 for 1978 and 7.33 for 1979.

This deflator is arrived at on the basis of data provided by the Energy Institute of Cologne University by dividing the dollar index by the OECD inflation index.

It this meets two of the three demands put forwards by the long-term strategy Commission of Opec: first, the dollar is adjusted for inflation and, second, the development of the dollar is seen in relation to other currencies.

The third demand, to peg the oil price to the growth of GNP in the industrial countries, has not been met by the deflator.

Opec price conferences of the past few years have centred around the world economy and the inflation rates in the industrial countries in particular.

The oil producing countries have been watching the recession (which was only to a small extent due to their price policy) with great care and concern.

In fact, Opec granted the industrial nations some breathing space to enable then to recover from the world re-cession.

But the shortage effects of ... remained unchanged. Of course, Opec ... by no means being altruistic ... was their own business interest ... guided them. After all, no cartel ... to bankrupt its buyers.

By the end of 1978, the world economy had not only recovered but ... excellent shape — apart from the fact that the dollar exchange rate continued to drop. But then, US policy was geared to strengthening the dollar.

In view of this constellation, industrial nations should have been ... and should have realised that ... oil price increases were in store.

In the past 18 months, Opec's multiplication factor for the nominal ... was three. This made the world economy start ailing again and nobody can tell whether it has weathered the ... or whether, indeed, the crisis is yet to come.

Though the full extent of the problems besetting the world economy ... yet known, so much can be said: ... non-oil producing developing countries which are struggling anyway, are ... hit. What meagre foreign exchange they have goes into Opec coffers.

The Opec strategists obviously ... this but they remain rather deaf in ... particular ear.

An Opec Developement Fund was established in the spring of 1980 ... much haggling and subsequently ... increased to a pitiful 2.4bn dollars ... there was little jubilation.

The investment plans of Opec ... more interesting to the Third World nations. But Opec believes in strict separation between business and ... and so it gives priority to solvent ... ors.

Factions within the cartel

The difficulty of gauging the exact degree of recession that will result from the oil prices has been troubling the industrial nations, the developing countries and the Opec strategists themselves. In fact, Opec experts have been so divided on this point that several factions have formed within the cartel.

This disunity between the moderate doves and the hawks has become so pronounced that no-one knows whether Opec should be congratulated on its silver jubilee five years from now.

Right now, with the world economy showing clear signs of weakness, Opec — if it continues acting logically — is likely to show a certain price restraint and adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

But as long as the industrial nations show reasonable growth figures, Opec (and, of course, the North Sea oil producers) will demand their slice of the cake. Assessments of this attitude vary, ranging from anger over Opec's extortion all the way to admiration for its business acumen. Still, the prospects of being dealt a new blow as soon as they start recovering from the previous one is ... likely to put the industrial nations in a good mood.

Opec itself has provided the recipe for bypassing it when it comes to sharing out the cake. It can be put in three words: fry without oil.

Of course, the sheiks are well aware that this advice, no matter how sound, is very costly for the industrial world. The price of substituting alternative energies for oil is now (or will soon be) the same as oil itself. But the necessary installations — such as coal liquefaction plants and nuclear power stations — still have to built in adequate numbers and paid for. Meanwhile, policymakers in the industrial world have become aware of the problem and are trying to make up for lost time.

The American Synfuel programme is one example.

Although some of these technologies are problematic in terms of the environment and although in some instances their prestige effect is greater than the benefits to be derived, critics should exercise restraint, bearing in mind that most of the world's oil supplies will have been used up in 30 years time.

Gabi Bierhaus

(Handelsblatt, 12 September 1980)

Opec — oil output and petrodollars

1979 oil revenue in $bn — 1979 oil exports in millions of tons

	Gabon	Qatar	Indonesia	UAE	Libya	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Iraq	Kuwait	Nigeria	Venezuela	Algeria	Ecuador
1979 oil revenue in $bn	1.4	3.8	8.1	12.8	16.3	20.8	57.7	23.4	16.0	16.1	12.0	8.8	1.8
1979 oil exports in millions of tons	10	25	65	90	100	120	465	165	120	105	100	55	10

BUSINESS

Exhibition demonstrates sophistication of photographic industry

Art historian Walter Benjamin said 50 years ago that the illiterate of the future will not be the people who cannot read and write but those who don't know how to take a photograph.

This prediction seems to have come true.

Photokina 1980 in Cologne, the world's biggest photographic show, is devoted to a medium with which we have had experience for barely 150 years, and yet it has reached such a peak of development as to dwarf even the boldest visions of photo-pioneers. Those who do not know how to handle a camera are rapidly becoming fringe groups of our civilisation.

The alphabet of photography — only a few years ago mere hieroglyphics for the majority — with such terminology as f-stop, shutter speed and film speed has been reduced to a single obstacle: the trigger.

Chip electronics which leave the thinking to the camera, mass production (with the resulting low prices) and clever marketing strategies aimed at putting an automatic camera in every child's schoolbag have made photography available to all. This has created a new historic situation: The glass eye has become a permanent companion.

But is it true in our day and age that this glass eye has no heart? Is the sceptic right who, in 1839 only a few months after the now invention was publicly presented in Paris, wrote in a learned magazine on art versus photography: "The camera permits us only to record reality. It knows nothing about inventiveness and free depiction of the things that move us and fire our imagination."



The trend is towards cameras that can work under water. (Photo: Messegesellschaft)

The change in photography from being the hobby of a few initiates to a mass occupation rebuts this view. Today, the camera has become the most important instrument in expressing imagination and emotions and in recording memories.

So the photo albums of a nation of hobby photographers are swelling with pictures of sunsets on Capri all the way to the most intimate and private sphere. They represent a wealth for which we still lack the correct terminology: photography has become a national cult and, indeed, a national culture in the best sense of the word.

Every album becomes a private museum, recording the camera owner's efforts to turn individual photographs into a mirror of his own world.

Future achaeologists will rejoice in these records: never before has there been a more telling record of everyday life.

But even so, the archaeologists will have their problems: 19th century hopes that photography would provide a faithful record have failed to materialise. As Bert Brecht put it, the situation has been complicated by the fact that "a simple depiction of a reality now tells us less about it than ever before. A photograph of the Krupp works or some other industrial giant tells us nothing about it."

An example from Cologne: during protest demonstrations against a planned autobahn, both police and demonstrators took photographs of each other to use as evidence in court. The incident thus had two photographic faces, depending on the vantage point.

It is this out and out subjective character of a photograph as a mirror of reality that has turned it into a technical art form — an art form practised and taught by Atget, Zille, von Salomon, Sander and Chargesheimer for decades.

Even writers like Jürgen Becker of Cologne have at times put aside their typewriters in favour of cameras to "write" a piece of literature with the glass eye.

Surprisingly, these artistic photographs were not recognised and traded as art until photography itself no longer required any major skill: the boom of photo galleries set in once the camera had become a familiar instrument of the masses.

Cologne has played a historic role in this process, since it was here that Photokina combined art and commerce.

This was to become a new cornerstone of cultural policy because photographic exhibitions now attract the masses who have long avoided art galleries.

But just putting photographs on exhibit is not enough. Aesthetic reflection on the meaning and form of photography is still in its infancy.

Even the seemingly simple fundamental question as to why in our visual era thousands reach for their cameras notwithstanding the fact that their photographs will never match the professionalism of a picture postcard has remained unanswered.

Photokina — now in its 30th year — provides a splendid opportunity to remind cultural policy makers that photographic shows are not enough and that photo-research should be given more space.

The promised Agfa-Gevaert Museum in Cologne, which is to emerge from the Leverkusen Historama Collection, must not be permitted to fall prey to the new confusion over a Ludwig Foundation of Cologne is not to leave photography, its own child, in the lurch.

A central exhibition and research facility that would provide a direct impression of photography through photo collections has been overdue for years.

Andreas Freisfuld

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 13 September 1980)

Lambsdorff warning

Continuing high investment is the key to developing the economy, Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff said in Cologne.

He was addressing the opening of the Photokina exhibition.

Only with high investment can structural changes imposed on our economy from without be weathered and only thus can we preserve our competitiveness on international markets, secure the existing jobs and create new ones he said.

Preserving the positive outlook for the medium term future is therefore the right attitude. But such a policy calls for a steady hand. Any hasty changes could at best result in optical gags.

Count Lambsdorff said that he would therefore promote a course aimed at medium term development. This includes the reduction of obstacles to growth, a better competition system, continued anti-inflationary action, investment stimulae and anti-protectionist measures.

The minister went on to say that the application of modern technology was essential for a highly industrialised economy like the German one, which is entirely part of the world economy, if it is to remain competitive on international markets.

Especially the photographic industry, he said, has always been closely linked to technological progress. Its above average proportion of R & D to the volume of sales is a prime example of fruitful cooperation between R & D on the one hand and highly skilled labour on the other.

The minister stressed that only one in eight deutschemarks spent for R & D in this branch of industry is supplied by the state. (Handelsblatt, 12 September 1980)

Refinements keep on getting finer

Photography was once a tedious business requiring cumbersome equipment and much patience.

Photokina exhibition in Cologne tellingly demonstrates how much easier things have become for the photographer.

Since mere automatic speed control can no longer impress the hobby photographer of today, 1,105 exhibitors from 33 countries present a wide range of refinements extending from improved and yet lighter lenses all the way to elements of automation which sometimes give the impression that the industry is showing off.

More and more cameras now relieve the user not only of having to set the speed, but also of focusing, which is done by an autofocus system.

Sophisticated electronics make the taking of pictures with a flashlight — no matter what the distance — childs play; and new film made without the costly silver is so advanced that it doesn't matter if you over or underexpose by several stops.

The time is rapidly approaching when all that will be missing will be a "motive bell" to tell the photographer that the time has come to press the trigger.

But there is some doubt as to whether the photographer's skill can keep pace with the sophistication of cameras.

One of the stars (though not quite new) among the small cameras is the Nikon F 3 with which the company hopes to attract the professionals. A look through the viewfinder makes the photographer feel like a computer tamer.

A digital readout above the picture in the viewer tells the necessary exposures. The light metering is sophisticated enough to measure the light reflected from the film surface. As a result, the camera reacts to changing light conditions at the moment of pressing the trigger.

The importance Nikon attaches to ease of use is demonstrated by details: when changing film, the camera automatically sets itself for 1/80 seconds to prevent excessive waiting times during the automatically clicked empty frames while the film winds onto the spool.

Pentax LX has come up with some spectacular innovations. Shutter speeds range from 125 to the world's fastest at 1/2000 of a second.

Another remarkable fact is that, should the battery be dead, the camera remains operational — and not only for one exposure.

Olympus OM-2 and Contax 139 are every bit as innovative as the Nikon F 3, though the Nikon motor with its six exposures per second is faster by one exposure than the Pentax winder.

The automatic superlong exposure of more than two minutes might seem like a bit of technological boasting. Though it is nice to have such a potent camera, the practical value of this long exposure is not very great.

Leitz with its Leica R4 mot shows that German companies can hold their own in this super technology competition. The combination of shutter speed or f-stop automation with selective light measurement is unique.

The SLR programme of Agfa-Gevaert ist relatively modest by comparison: the three cameras of the Selectronic series are nevertheless a good return into the arena of Europe's biggest camera maker.

The "modesty" is deliberate because cameras are test balloons for Agfa. Should they prove successful there is still time to become more ambitious.

But the Selectronic sries is only a small part of the Agfa programme that includes a mini camera with motor (a mixture between a movie and a still camera), flashlights and pocket cameras that are more than just cheap leisure toys.

But the pieces de resistance is a film: the Agfapan Vario-XL Professional has a flexible speed ranging from 22 to 33 DIN, which is more than tenfold. The finished negative contains no silver and is not black and white but reddish.

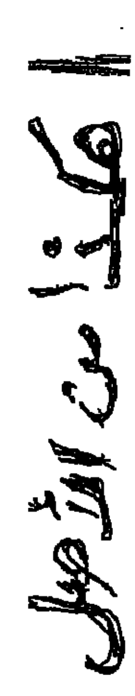
Ilford's XP-1's speed ranges from 27 to 33 DIN.

Both these films belong to a new generation. They turn a necessity into a virtue. By forgoing the silver the grain achieves hitherto unheard of sizes.

The beauty of it all is that both films enable the photographer to change the film speed at will. According to Ilford, the grain in overexposed pictures does not become coarser but finer.

Gerd Schuster/rtr

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 13 September 1980)



■ CIVIL DEFENCE

Lack of shelters 'could hamper military in event of war'

Civil defence in West Germany leaves much to be desired. Civil defense and military experts reckon 97 per cent of the population would be left to their own devices in an emergency. At the present rate there will not be enough air-raid shelters for the public until the year 2,600. Medical care in the event of war could not be guaranteed either.

In the event of war the Bundeswehr may well be left with nothing to defend but gigantic graveyards, pundits warn.

Phrased as a rhetorical query this may sound cynical, but it reflects an alarming dilemma for which politicians and the military must share the blame.

In the event 97 per cent of the population of West Germany would lack even the meagre protection afforded by a place in a scheduled air-raid shelter.

What is more, there would be no guarantee of medical care for large numbers of casualties or even of food supplies to urban areas.

Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan politicians in Bonn have again seen fit to argue the case for better civil defence.

In the past this second mainstay of defense as a whole has lagged sadly behind in both political priority and financial allocations.

In the heyday of detente, demands for civil defence were reduced to a back-seat role. The mere demand, it was argued, could be rated a provocation by East bloc countries with which Bonn was negotiating.

Cost-effect analyses were compiled on the assumption that there would be no war, while others argued that effective protection was impossible given the advanced state of weapons technology.

Such assessments are gradually losing their force of persuasion. Even neutral countries such as Switzerland and Sweden boast first-rate civil defence systems.

Neither, unlike the Federal Republic of Germany, need automatically expect to be involved in a war. But both have stepped up civil defence precautions as a token of defence preparedness.

The same is true, to a certain extent, of the Soviet Union and, to a lesser degree, of the Warsaw Pact states.

According to US intelligence sources there are 35,000 bunker installations in the military sector and 75 regional seats of government in the Moscow area alone.

The Soviet Union is said to have built gigantic air-raid shelters to house 60m people and to have built reinforced foodgrain warehouses on the outskirts of all major cities.

It is also claimed to have made provision for alternative ordnance factories and all manner of other precautions.

West Germany's geopolitical location is self-explanatory. It has 1,700km of frontier in common with member-countries of the Warsaw Pact, not to mention an open sea border on its northern flank.

This consists of about 300km of Baltic seaboard and about 500km of North Sea, to which must be added a narrow east-west panhandle of about 125km from the Elbe to the North Sea at Hamburg and about 225km from the East German to the French border in the Rhine-Main-Neckar region.

Demographic patterns would also be to West Germany's detriment in the event of hostilities. In 11 conurbations 45 per cent of the population live in an area that accounts for a mere seven per cent of the country's surface area.

Assuming the Warsaw Pact were to launch a conventional attack using forces stationed within a reasonable distance of the intra-German border, Nato would be left with but a few hours in which to take counter-measures.

Soviet targets range far and wide, to judge by Warsaw Pact exercises. They extend up to 1,000km from the initial front and are expected to be reached in between a week and a fortnight.

Assuming the invading forces to enjoy 6-1 superiority, Nato plans are based on the assumption that the Warsaw Pact will initially advance 30km a day and only be brought to a halt once it has gained a clear 100km or so.

In the 60s Western defence planning was based on the assumption that in view of Soviet military doctrine and the deployment of Nato forces there would be zones that were in special danger in the event of an attack on the Federal Republic.

They included the entire west bank of the Rhine, on which Nato forces were to fall back and establish lines of defence.

This concept has been scrapped for the past 15 years. It would have meant giving up virtually without a fight a third of the surface area of West Germany inhabited by 20m people.

Nato forces are currently detailed to start fighting back as near the country's eastern border as possible, which would mean the civilian population bearing the brunt of fighting.

Nato planning presupposes the civilian population would stay put in the event of hostilities.

This stay-put principle is based on the experience that people who flee in panic from areas they know are usually in greater danger than would otherwise be the case.

Besides, large-scale refugee treks would hamper the operational potential of armed forces.

Parallel drawn with France in 1940

Military pundits now feel, for instance, that the course of the 10 May to 22 June 1940 *blitzkrieg* against France was largely determined by uncontrolled French refugee movements.

Refugees streamed away from the front and collided head-on, as it were, with units of the armed forces as they were drafted in to the action.

The current Bonn government, like its predecessors, fully endorses the stay-put principle and reaffirms it time and again. Yet it simultaneously undermines it by not doing enough towards civil defence.

At talks between heads of department in the National Security Council it has repeatedly been pointed out that the principle's feasibility depends to a large extent on adequate air-raid precautions.

Then, and then only, could the civilian population be convinced that staying put was their best prospect of survival in the event of attack.

West Germany's early warning facilities are without equal in training and performance, but they alone are inadequate. What use is a warning in time to someone who then has no idea where he might seek protection?

Air-raid shelter construction, both public and private, ought thus to be a key feature of civil defence.

A frequent counter-argument is that in the nuclear age air-raid shelters are pointless. This presupposes that nuclear weapons would be used as a matter of course in the event of war.

Military men, however, assume that in the early stages of hostilities conventional weapons alone could be employed.

Advocates of air-raid shelters argue that in the Second World War cities that had not taken appropriate precautions suffered grave losses in air raids.

Stuttgart, for instance, was a city where air-raid shlters had been built. Its population of half a million was at the receiving end of 25,000 tonnes of bombs, yet there were only 4,000 deaths.

Nearby Pforzheim, on the other hand, with a population of 80,000 was unprotected. In Second World War aerial bombardment with approximately 1,600 tonnes of bombs 17,000 Pforzheim people lost their lives.

Even in the nuclear age the provision of air-raid shelters is most important, their advocates claim, though full protection is technically out of the question.

Assuming nuclear devices were aimed at selected targets in West Germany, air-raid shelters would retain a survival capability — if only because but a few areas would be directly hit.

An aggressor would naturally be interested in keeping nuclear bombardment to a minimum since the risk of contamination boomerang would be largely incalculable.

This is a reasonable assumption that is a far cry from pseudo-scientific estimates of the consequences of nuclear war in terms of megatonnes and overkill.

The conclusions reached from Nato exercises have for 20 years underlined the need for air-raid shelter construction.

Generals, it is only fair to add, seem only to speak out on the need for civil defence once they have retired. Until then they tend to concentrate on boosting purely military potential.

The truth is that they are afraid mobilisation and troop build-up for defence purposes would be seriously hampered by uncontrolled, panic-stricken refugee treks unless air-raid shelters were available.

Unless shelters were provided, it is further argued, civilian casualties would be so high that hospital and field ambulance services would no longer be able to handle them.

Medical care, professional organisations point out, could only be ensured provided doctors, vets, chemists auxiliary staff and first aid volunteers were available in sufficient numbers.

What is more, they would need to be integrated in peacetime in a public health system devised to ensure adequate basic medical care for both civilian and military personnel in the event of an emergency.

So far the politicians responsible have fielded poor arguments why they have been unable to draft a health package as part of emergency provisions.

Yet in the event of war or tension possibly leading to war some legal basis or other would be essential to ensure a health service, and it would necessarily entail drafting qualified staff for duty where they were needed and imposing controls on hospital organisation.

How, military planners wonder, are service and police personnel to be motivated to perform their allotted tasks when they know that their families are exposed unprotected to the full rigours of hostilities?

Take, for instance, the police. At present strength they would hardly be in a position to maintain law and order in the event of war, let alone to prevent uncontrolled refugee treks.

In the past the Bonn government earmarked strictly limited funds towards shelter construction, but this little was scrapped by the terms of the 1975 Budget (Structural Improvement) Act.

In 1979 a fresh allocation of DM42.6m was made, while this year DM59.1m was to have been invested in air-raid shelters. But Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer has already announced cuts of up to DM9.4m.

Bonn has so far provided air-raid shelter accommodation for 1.9m people and refuses to make the provision of air-raid shelters mandatory.

Yet it is keen to encourage private construction of shelters, providing subsidies and tax incentives of other kinds towards building them.

Volunteer builders hard to find

This approach runs counter to experience since the 50s that people are markedly lacking in voluntary enthusiasm to saddle themselves with the expense of building air-raid shelters.

What is more, the Bonn government does nothing to encourage others by taking action of its own. In 1979 subsidies towards the cost of building private air-raid shelters amounted to about half the investment in autobahn toilet facilities.

Experts have long maintained that Bonn ought to make the provision of air-raid shelters mandatory. At the present rate of construction there will not be enough shelters until the year 2600.

Prominent politicians have their own special bunker in the Eifel hills, near Bonn. But apart from them only about three per cent of the population would currently find a place in a shelter.

Funds are so scarce that this year the puny civil defence estimates have been further pruned to help finance aid to Turkey and arms and ammunition for the Bundeswehr.

Air-raid shelters are not alone in having been hit by cost-cutting. This autumn civil defence training courses hitherto financed by the Bonn government will have to be scrapped unless a miracle happens, regional civil defence authorities report.

This is by no means the only instance of shortsighted planning. Take emergency plans to ensure food supplies, for instance.

They are aimed at ensuring that people in built-up areas can be fed hot meals for a fortnight from stockpiles of canned food. But stockpiles have been run down in recent years and are only slowly being replaced.

Manfred Schell

(Die Welt, 3 September 1980)

■ AWARDS

Habermas, spiritual father of student left

Sociologist and social philosopher Jürgen Habermas has been awarded the DM50,000 Theodor W. Adorno Prize.

The ceremony took place in Frankfurt's St. Paul's Church on the birthday of the head of the famous Frankfurt School after whom the prize is named.

Habermas, the spiritual father of the leftist student movement and one of the moving spirits behind the universities reform, has been a controversial figure here in Germany.

No other thinker has had such an influence on the public as the neo-Marxist Habermas.

Many key terms in the intellectual discussion of the past years have been coined by his critical social theory which has drawn heavily on Adorno and Marcuse.

The volume *Stichworte zur geistigen Situation der Zeit*, 1979, (catchphrases on the intellectual situation of our time) which was compiled by him bears witness to this.

He is usually the main speaker at congresses of sociologists, political scientists and philosophers for example at the forthcoming sociologists' congress in Bremen.

Habermas, the present director of the Max Planck Institute for Sociology in Starnberg, Bavaria, is considering accepting an invitation to America.

Berkeley philosophers and sociologists have unanimously nominated him while Munich University has not even been prepared to offer him an honorary professorship.

Born on 18 June 1929, the son of an upper middle class family, Habermas studied philosophy under Nicolai Hartmann in Göttingen and under Erich Rothacker in Bonn.

Heidegger was the most influential philosopher of the time. In 1954, Habermas graduated with a dissertation on Schelling. But the political naiveté of such thinkers failed to satisfy him, and so he supplemented his philosophical studies by delving deeply into Marx.

After graduating, he initially worked as a free lancer for various newspapers and was later employed at the Frankfurt Institute for Social Research, headed by Max Horkheimer and Adorno.

Here, he devoted himself primarily to empirical sociology. Frankfurt refused to give him a professorship. He did not receive a chair until the Marxist political



Jürgen Habermas (Photo: dpa)

scientist Wolfgang Abendroht accepted Habermas' pioneering work *Strukturwandel der Öffentlichkeit*, 1961, (structural change of the public).

He had been put forward for this chair by important Heidegger disciples Hans-Georg Gadamer and Karl Löwith.

Appointed in 1964, Habermas left Frankfurt in 1971 to become co-director of the Max Planck Institute for Research into the Living Conditions in a Scientific-Technological World, founded by Carl-Friedrich von Weizsäcker.

The problem of *Theorie und Praxis* (theory and practice) has been a pivotal issue for Habermas. He has clearly felt the impotence of traditional reason which can no longer justify its normative terms such as justice, humanity and beauty.

Philosophy cannot achieve self-realisation by dissolving into a theory of science. The fundamental issues of practical philosophy that concern all people, i.e. the questions as to the "good life", cannot be answered by pointing to the exigencies of a technological world.

Habermas gave a foundation to his thesis that technical insights and practical interests serve the freedom of man in two widely-read works: *Technik und Wissenschaft als Ideologie* (technology and science as ideology) and *Erkenntnis und Interesse* (insight and interest), both published in 1968, at the height of the student movement.

In his interpretation, progress in controlling nature presupposes the necessity of a gradual elimination of the rule of people over people. Once this has been achieved, social equality of opportunity, nonviolent discussion and critical reflection can be fought for.

But all this was not fast enough for the students and large parts of the leftists among them became alienated from their guru.

Undaunted, Habermas continues to pin his hopes on the "communicative" active people who come to terms with each other sensibly and casually.

He has tried to find out under which conditions of reality such a "discussion" can take place. He holds that only in cooperation with science can he get anywhere. In doing so, he draws heavily on American linguistics and on Piaget's development psychology.

The aim in the life of all people, he says, is to agree with their fellow men and thus become linguistically proficient and capable of acting.

In his book *Zur Rekonstruktion des historischen Materialismus*, 1976, (on the reconstruction of historic materialism) Habermas endeavours to lend substance to a historic-materialistic social theory through the results of modern sociology, economics, ethnology, psychology and political science.

His leftist critics see this as a departure from the Frankfurt School. But all that has happened is simply that Habermas has not taken their merely general social criticism a step further.

The Marxist philosopher Habermas is a sociologist and an individual scientist out of deeper insight. The considerable financial means placed at his disposal in Starnberg (and soon in Munich) by the Max Planck Society are being used for his epochal attempt at last to reconcile critical philosophy and empirical science. Their traditional separation has become a danger to the world.

Wolfgang Schirmacher

(Bremer Nachrichten, 10 September 1980)

Honour for historian

This year's Alexander Petrowitsch Karpinskij Prize of the Hamburg-based Freiherr vom Stein Foundation has been awarded to a Leningrad University Professor.

Boris Borissowitsch Piotrowski, Professor for History of the Old Orient, is the director-general of the Leningrad Eremitage and member of the Soviet Academy of Science.

The DM30,000 prize to be formally awarded at the Leningrad Academy of Science is linked with a scholarship and is awarded annually for outstanding work in the Soviet Union — especially in the fields of science and the humanities.

The prize is named after the Russian geologist and geographer Karpinskij (1846–1936).

Piotrowski has made a name for himself with his archaeological research into the high civilisations ranging from the Caucasus Mountains to the upper reached of the Nile.

dpa

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 September 1980)

■ OBITUARY

Robert Minder, story-teller with a scientific approach

Robert Minder has died following a heart attack. The 78-year-old writer was found in a train compartment in Cannes, which he was passing through on holiday.

He was one of those writers who, though becoming a scientist, always remained a writer. He was an enlightener with the temperament of an artist, a thorough scientist with a gentle sense of humour, a foxy rhetorician and a dangerous polemicist who dealt disastrous blows with charm.

Minder was also a knowledgable Germanist and a zealot. Yet he was mostly right.

Granted, he was a sceptic. But he was always convinced of the mundane usefulness of literature and he never hesitated to speak of its indestructability.

Like all critics, he believed in the principle of hope and was a lover — but his love for literature never obscured his view of events.

What mattered to him and what he stressed time and again can be summed up in the term "the whole", of which Goethe was so fond.

Whatever Minder's topic, he always arrived at the fundamental question which is more acute today than ever before and which he used as a title for his collected essays: *Wozu Literature?*, 1971, (literature — to what purpose?).

He never believed in absolutistic methods of literary research. Though he would never forgo the help of the instruments of psycho-analysis, Marxism and existentialism in his text analyses, he was always afraid of blinkers. For this very reason he never shied away from crossing boundaries; in fact, he needed this.

Be it history or philosophy, sociology or economics, medicine or psychology, music or the fine arts — he used everything that could help impart clarity and classify an author.

It was unthinkable for him to look at literature in isolation. He therefore mistrusted any isolated method, using any approach that presented itself. What mattered for him was the co-existence of disciplines and methods. He was not between but above the fronts in Germanistics.

Since he loved the concrete, he stuck closely to his subject, revelling in facts and details.

But he also had enough detachment to get an overview of the scene and to uncover the intellectual contexts with their many ramifications and interplays.

Minder treated all literary works as the products of their time. Yet each was unique as a work of art.

Minder, who had lived and taught in Paris for decades, did not become widely known in Germany until the 1960s. It was primarily his books *Kultur und Literature in Deutschland und Frankreich*, 1962, (culture and iterature in Germany and France) and *Dichter in der Gesellschaft*, 1966, (the writer in society) that earned him instant recognition (and several prizes).

His essays on Schiller, Hölderlin, Jean Paul, Hebel, Fontane, Döblin and Benn caused a minor sensation. Minder had a talent for arousing curiosity. Having read his essays the reader felt a desire to re-read the authors dealt with.

Referring to his lecture on "How to become an historian of literature and to what end" he said that it was "a mini confession mitigated by its entertaining tone."

In fact, all his works are (more or less well camouflaged) confessions. But all of them also want to entertain the reader.

He once boldly announced: "Our muse should be Scheherezade." He acted accordingly: he was not a schoolmaster but an entertaining story-teller.

His style was flexible and poignant, perhaps best described as feuilletonist.

But even the strictest of Germanists had to admit that his feuilletonist case never detracted from his scientific thoroughness. On the contrary; his pedantic thoroughness enabled him to "stand above it all merrily." He made it hard on himself so that his readers should have it easy.

Minder's best works are both entertaining and informative and, indeed, thrilling. He never tired of showing and explaining German traits to the French and French traits to the Germans.

He always wanted to be a mediator between Germany and France, between art and society, between literature and everyday life and, of course, between the present and the past.

Even as an old man and notwithstanding severe illness he retained his interest in everything new and commented on it with great passion.

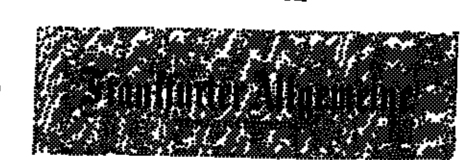
We can all learn much from the books of the merry Alsatian scientist and entertaining Germanist Robert Minder.

Marcel Reich-Ranicki

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 September 1980)

■ MEDICINE

Modern conditions help premature babies develop normally



Premature babies develop just as well as babies who are born after the normal incubation period, thanks to modern medicine.

Only children that have had inadequate nourishment during pregnancy — and that could not make up for it after birth by above average growth of the head, and hence the brain — are slower in developing and have lower intelligence.

This is the interim conclusion of a long-term study by Ingeborg Brandt of Bonn University's Paediatric Clinic.

The study, supported by the Thyssen Foundation, encompassed children from birth to the age of six. All children weighing less than 1,500 grams at birth were considered premature for the purpose of this survey.

The aim was to develop socalled "norms" for a child's development and to establish the point at which it should be capable of performing certain motoric and intellectual tasks.

Of course, such criteria cannot be rigid averages because the development of individual children varies too widely.

Thus, for instance, it took a year before all normally born children learned to sit unsupported. The time lag in the development of premature babies was the same.

As a result, the study established the time it takes each group of children under review to achieve a specific performance.

The variables must be taken into account by a doctor if he is to differentiate between normal and pathological late development.

According to Ingeborg Brandt, this great time lag also shows how difficult it is to draw a clear line between the two groups. It is therefore wrong to speak of a pathological development. Instead, such terms as good and poor development should be applied.

Unsupported sitting, coordinated crawling and, as a final phase, unsupported walking are milestones in the motoric development of an infant.

Half of the children in the survey — regardless whether premature or full-term — were capable of sitting at seven months, they were nine months when they learned to crawl and 13 months when they took their first unsupported steps.

Another important criterion of development is the age at which an infant learns to use his hands. The reason for this is that the development of the ability to grip is closely linked with the development of the brain.

The ability of a child to seize upon an object with the hand as a whole, the moment at which it learns to move the index finger by itself and the time at which it learns the pincer function (i. e. the picking up of objects between thumb and index finger) all indicate the development of its brain. This also permits the early diagnosis of minor disabilities.

Along with these neurological and motoric surveys, Maria Regina Schröder made psychological tests to establish the degree of development and the IQ of premature and full-term babies.

Here, too, there was little difference between the two groups. Premature babies that were born with a normal weight for their particular stage of development had the same IQ as their full-term counterparts.

Even premature babies that had inadequate nourishment during pregnancy made up for lost time by an above average growth of the head. Their IQ (107 to 114) differed little from that of the full-termers (106 to 115).

Development disorders occurred only with those premature children whose head circumference failed to normalise after birth because the human brain achieves 95 per cent of its adult size by the age of 3 years and one month.

If this decisive development phase is hampered by undernourishment, the mental and motoric abilities of a c[hild] can be impaired.

This has also been confirmed by numerous surveys of women and children in Third World famine areas.

Of the premature babies in Ing[eborg] Brandt's survey, 20 per cent sh[owed] such damage and their IQ dropped fr[om] 106 in the first year to 90 in the s[ixth year] where it remained.

These children had problems u[nder]standing contexts, they found it [diffi]cult to concentrate, were easily dis[tracted] and tired fast.

But other surveys indicate that [these] disabilities can be offset in the cou[rse of] further development if the child g[rows] up in a favourable environment [that] promotes its mental activities.

The effects of the social environ[ment] have been proved by many studies. [The] Bonn researchers will carefully com[pare] the individual course of each child's [de]velopment to get a better idea of [envi]ronmental effects.

Moreover, they want to determine [the] sequence in which the various st[ages of] development follow upon each o[ther]. Only once this sequence is known [will] it be possible to determine what f[unc]tion a handicapped child is unable [to] perform and selectively promote [that] particular function.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 September 19[80])

Midwives a dying breed

Midwives — especially the self employed variety — are a dying breed in Germany. Small wonder, considering that they are not allowed to charge more than DM12 per visit.

Of the 5,500 remaining midwives in 1980, more than 3,500 are employed by hospitals. There are only 2,000 freelancers, and close to three-quarters of them have close ties with hospitals.

*North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state, has only 257 free*lancing midwives. There are 41,000 in Britain.

Ruth Kölle, chairman of the German Midwives Association, says it is not as if nobody wants to become a midwife and it is wrong to assume that this ancient profession is no longer in demand: "Those midwives who work in hospitals are overtaxed because of shortages," she says.

Since there are hardly any midwives available for pre and postnatal care, Frau Kölle has repeatedly called on the authorities to provide more training facilities. The fact that her appeals have gone unheeded is the more incomprehensible as the Federal Republic of Germany has a rising infant mortality rate.

In 1975, it was 2.2 per 1,000 in Sweden and 5.9 in West Germany.

German health policy makers do not have to travel far to find positive examples. Still births and infant mortality are much lower in the Scandinavian countries and in Holland than here. Those are also the countries that attribute much more importance to midwives than does Germany. It is they, above all, who provide intensive counselling, both pre and postnatal.

And there can be no doubt as to the effects of such care or lack of it on infant mortality.

Says Frau Kölle: "Only improved postnatal care at home for mother and infant, as practised in other European countries, can solve the problem of infant mortality."

It should also be possible to make more than just half of our pregnant women attend all 12 prenatal checkups.

Michael Segbers/dpa

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 11 September 1980)

Doctors seek answers to psychology of sterility

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

There have been many attempts to build up a dependable statistical picture of why people suffer from psychosomatic sterility.

But, for methodological reasons, none has been successful.

Medicine must look at psychological and physical processes together without emphasising one or the other, Dr Alexander Teichmann, of Göttingen, told the 6th International Congress on Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Berlin.

Dr Teichmann reported on a study he made at the Göttingen University Gynaecological Clinic.

Of the couples (a total of 256 people) who made use of his sterility counselling service in 1978/79, eight per cent had organic, 51 per cent hormonal and 36 per cent andrological (affecting the fertility of the man) disorders.

The remaining 25 per cent had no detectable organic disorder.

Dr Teichmann stressed that such statistics convey little information because our diagnostic possibilities in the somatic sectors are limited and because psychological elements are frequently overlooked and attributed to physical conditions.

Only a thorough psychological examination can provide clear proof of psychologically-induced infertility. This is best done in the course of depth psychology therapy. Dr Teichmann considers that it is careless to use the success of psychotherapeutic treatment as proof of psychologically-induced infertility since such therapy encompasses unrelated elements that could bring about spontaneous cures.

In connection with particularly problematic cases, he recommends that not only the woman or the couple as a whole but the entire family attend counselling because sterility is frequently not due to the couple concerned but to a disturbed relationship with the parents or in-laws.

Any unwanted pregnancy is a bad mark in the balance sheet of family planning, Pro Familia President Dr Heinrichs told the delegates.

In such cases either information on preventing pregnancy was unavailable or it was ineffectual. Traditional contraceptive methods, he said, were still far removed from being an ideal solution to the problem.

Side effects that caused a general feeling of discomfort, he told the congress, were responsible for the high failure rate and hence unwanted pregnancies.

Since there are still no safe methods of contraception for the man, the woman still has to bear the brunt of the burden.

Hans Lester

(Der Tagesspiegel, 7 September 1980)

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■ HERITAGE

End of a salty saga

Germany's oldest industrial enterprise, the Lüneburg salt works, went out of business on 12 September — exactly 1,024 years after its first mention in official records.

The "white gold" which made Lüneburg an enormously rich and economically and politically powerful city is no longer in demand in our age of the deep freeze.

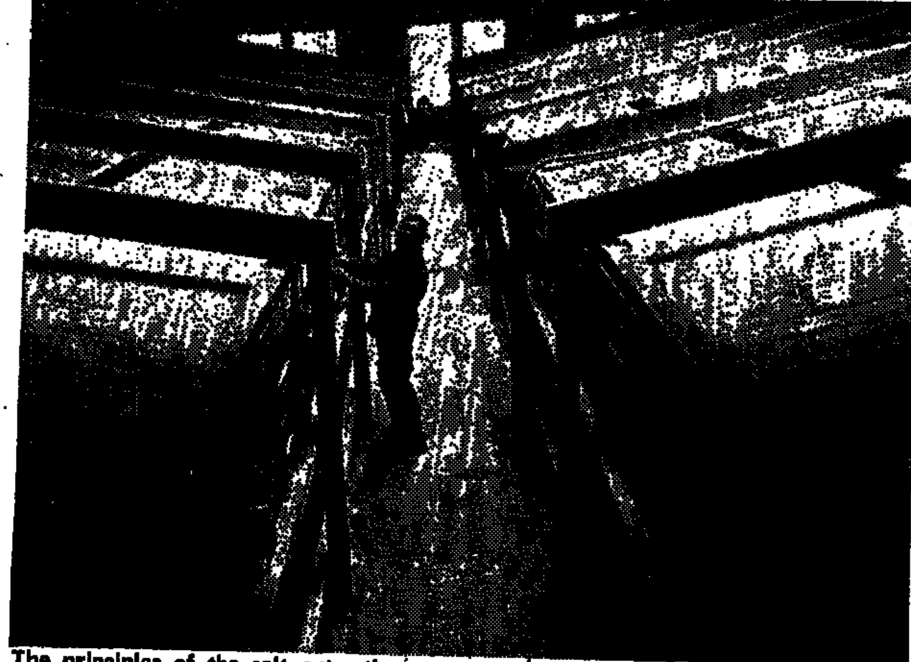
Another reason why Lüneburg salt will disappear from the supermarket shelves is the price of the heating oil needed for the salt pans which has made the salt works uneconomical to run.

Lüneburg owes its past riches to a geological peculiarity. The city rests on huge salt domes which push the highly saline ground water virtually to the surface.

In the old days, the salt masters used buckets to scoop the highly concentrated brine into the salt pans. Simple heating of the pans provided them with pure salt which, until very recently, was an essential in preserving all kinds of foodstuffs.

The production process and the heat needed for it led to the decimation of the vast oak and beech forests and thus created the landscape that is now known as the Lüneburg Heath — a landscape so attractive that it today draws considerable profit from tourism.

The beginnings of the Lüneburg salt works are shrouded in darkness.



The principles of the salt extraction process using boiling pans have not changed, only the heating materials. First wood was used, then coal and coke, and later heating oil. And the cost kept on rising.
(Photo: Josef Macovec)

Still, legend has it that it all started with the Lüneburg salt hog. Eons ago, a hunter killed a wild hog whose bristles were covered with a white crust because, just moments earlier, it had wallowed in brine.

The first documentary mention dates back to 13 August 956 when King Otto I promised the Lüneburg St. Michael's monastery a percentage of the salt works profits.

But at that time the salt trade must already have been a booming business. In fact, money flowed so richly to Lüneburg that even small tradesmen like carters, shipowners, cask makers, etc. amassed considerable fortunes.

The patrician houses that were built from the 14th century onward still bear *witness to the wealth of the city at the time.*

The salt works, and with them Lüneburg, had their golden age between 1470 and 1600 when the annual salt production soared to 25,00 tons. Ships carried the white gold to all parts of northern Europe, plying this trade from Amsterdam all the way to Novgorod in Russia and to the Scandinavian countries further north.

The Lüneburg „salt age" is nevertheless not yet over. The clever city fathers discovered in the 19th century that they could offset the diminishing salt trade by another attraction. They propagated the curative properties of the 26 per cent brine (the most cocentrated in Germany) and so attracted numerous people to their city.

Today, Lüneburg is a modern spa with all the trimmings, including brine swimming pools with artificial waves.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 11 September 1980)

Unearthing old Hamburg

Hamburg is digging into its past. A 5,000 square metre area in the city centre has been cordoned off to allow archaeologists to do their work.

It is the place where — in the 9th century — the wall surrounding Hammaburg was erected.

In the preparatory weeks, excavators removed debris from the last war. Their work done, the head of the archaeological team, Gisela Schneider, took over. She is assisted by a dozen university students and other helpers who work under the guidance of an expert on prehistory, a land surveyor and an architect.

Their main tool is a small shovel. Old plans of the city are available and small pins and flags mark the most important points.

What can be seen at present are the walls of the Johanneum secondary school which was destroyed by bombs in 1943. Below it lie the remnants of St. Mary's Cathedral which was torn down in the early 9th century.

The area of the dig, which had for many years served as a parking loot, covers much of what was the interior of the old Hammaburg.

The archaeologists want to retrace the various settlement and construction levels through the ages and find the gates of the fortress.

Researchers dealing only with old archives have it a lot easier than do archaeologists who must dig further than just records.

Unearthing the secrets of Hammaburg can provide information on the manner in which people built in those days and on the tools and utensils they used. It is here that Hamburg's development into a metropolis began.

Digs in 1949 and 1956 have shown that this is where the city's history began.

The most important individual item of this oldest phase is the wooden baptismal chapel of Bishop Ansgar which burnt down in 845 and was probably rebuilt later.

Around 1020 the old Hamburgers built a wooden "metropolitan church" in that place.

St. Mary's Cathedral was built in several stages between 1248 and 1545.

But Hamburg became Protestant in 1555 and the Cathedral passed into Swedish hands, and did not revert to Hamburg until 1803.

In line with their merchant spirit, the Hamburgers dismantled the structure piece by piece within a two-year span and sold it at a profit.

The vacant plot was used as a market place, though it also served as a drill ground for the army.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 9 September 1980)



The site of Hamburg's archaeological dig, in the centre of the city. The bombed-out block had for many years been a parking lot.
(Photo: dpa)

Nostalgia leads to boom in castle sales

A wave of nostalgia has ca... boom in sales of castles in G...ny.

Castle broker Jürgen R. Rilli... Augsburg/Göppingen, says: "Pric... rising and yet soon there will ... more castles available for sale."

Bavaria's authority for the presen... of national monuments has been ... of this for five years. There are ... none for sale in the Munich region.

Though Rilling estimates that ... are still between 12,000 and 1... castles of various types in Germ... only 2,000 are suitable for renov... and a maximum of 300 are really w... while.

As a result, his company is now a... dy branching out to other Europ... countries to satisfy the growing dem...

The list of "specials" includes ... south German castle for DM1... with renovation costs estimate... DM2.5m; a 300-year-old "well pre... ed" country estate in Luxembourg ... 8.2m francs; one of the most impo... moated castles in Bavaria, dating back ... the 16th century, for DM1.9m.

Many are national monuments

Those willing to take a risk can ... accept a castle near Vienna with ... square metres of property as a gift ... vided they are prepared to pay ... DM100,000 to fix the roof.

Since most castles have been de... national monuments and — in so... stances — are even eligible for state ... sidies, Herr Rilling obviously uses t... fact for his sales promotion.

His commission is 3.39 per cent f... German properties and five per cent f... those abroad.

Another sales promoting aspect is t... tax advantage people in high bracke... can gain from such purchases.

But essentially Herr Rilling attribut... the current boom in the castle busin... to a romantic desire of the people to ... away from it all and enjoy the prote... tion of thick walls. Fortunately for th... broker, a great many aristocratic cas... owners have fallen on hard times ... depend on the sales.

Rilling offers potential buyers a f... range of services and employs ma... aristocrats as salesmen.

There was, for instance, the America... millionaire who insisted on dealing ... with a "genuine count".

And on one occasion when th... Austrians refused to go along with ... deal because they feared too much fo... eign influence", the matter was solved ... by the aristocratic seller adopting the ... buyer and so giving him his name. For ... many buyers this is a most welcome so... lution. After all, nothing is better proof ... of having socially arrived than an aris... tocratic name at the castle gate.

Rilling has 20 aristocrats under pe... manent contract. In addition, there a... some 80 aristocratic free lancers worki... for him.

He says: "These aristocrats are fir... organisers and they enjoy attending pa... ties and congresses — provided the pa... is right."

As a sideline, he also provides aristoc... ratic godfathers and wedding witnesses ... when needed.

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 September 1980)

■ SPORT

National soccer manager not worried by mistakes

Jupp Derwall, manager of the West German soccer team that beat Switzerland 3—2 in a non competition match in Basle, was anxious not to sound too enthusiastic.

"The two mistakes we made in the final stages of the game may well have done the squad a power of good," he said, referring to the two Swiss goals that made the final scoreline so much less impressive than the team's showing as a whole.

Rummenigge, Müller, Magath and other members of the team, fired with enthusiasm by a three-goal lead, had opened up from the back, letting in two unnecessary Swiss goals.

It could so easily have been a 5—0 win, but Derwall is only too happy to see the squad brought down to earth. He preferred to sound cautious, although it cannot have been too easy after such a superb game.

Is it a little premature to compare the current squad with the 1972 European championship-winning team? Any manager is bound to be keen to have a squad at his disposal such as Helmut Schön had in his heyday.

Derwall, his successor, juggles with words. He does not want to underrate his team's performance but is anxious not to overdo the praise. He does not want to have to backpedal later, should the need arise.

He refuses to assess the standing of the Swiss team in European soccer but adds that his own team's showing can only be judged a qualified success.

The proviso is how they fare in coming encounters with Holland and France, both of whom he reckons are a class above Switzerland.

Derwall may not be keen to compare his present squad with the 1972 team but during his tenure the team have been unbeaten in 20 games, including a European championship final.

"Individual players are by no means worse than their 1972 predecessors," he says, "but that is no reason to think in terms of regaining the World Cup." The next World Cup competition is in 1982 in Spain.

Reluctantly he concedes that "it is a long time since the team were able to play as well as they did in Basle; in terms of technique and legwork it was their best performance while I have been manager."

There were ample grounds for satisfaction. Müller scored two fine goals, Magath one. Rummenigge was an all but unstoppable whirlwind.

Allofs testified to some intelligent teamwork. Hrubesch kept on the move, effectively marking his opponents. Schuster, Kaltz and Briegel led a firebrand forward division.

"The team have grown in stature over the past two years; everyone has improved," Derwall says, generously handing out praise in all directions.

The main reason, or so he feels, is a renewal of self-confidence now the team are European champions again. Inspired by this confidence, he and the team are prepared to run risks.

This is why he feels able to talk with ease about up-and-coming 20-years-old Schuster of Cologne whom soccer authorities are most reluctant to see sign for a Spanish or US club.

He, like Stielike, formerly of Borussia Mönchengladbach, now with Real Madrid, would then persumably no longer be available for international fixtures.

Stielike, Derwall says, has by no means been written off, while he plans to exert what influence he has to ensure that Schuster continues to be available for the national team.

But, as he readily admits, "there are other points on which no-one is going to ask for my opinion."

Will Schuster be available or won't he? Ditto Stielike. Would Schuster play as a striker or in midfield? Derwall prefers to wait and see what happens before worrying about problems of this kind.

"I'm not going to worry about them beforehand," he says, "otherwise I ought by now to have been wondering whether or not to consider Beckenbauer for international duties."

For the time being he can afford to be satisfied and let events take their course. Everyone played their allotted parts so well in Basle that he need hardly worry about who is to lead the backs or who is to mastermind forward play.

Schuster, aged 20, handled the one job while Müller and Magath got on so well together in the forward line-up that anyone could be excused for imagining they must surely play side by side every Saturday in the same Bundesliga team.

In Förster, Dietz and Kaltz the striker, whoever he is to be, can rely on reliable backs in front of him and, in Schumacher, on a quick-witted defender behind him. And even though all three forward spearheads in Basle, Rummenigge, Hrubesch and Allofs, failed to not the ball, all well might have done so.

Derwall concedes, however, that 11 men are not enough for a team. "We have been lucky with injuries," he notes, going on to refer to the reserves' dismal 2—0 defeat at the hands of the Swiss reserves. After watching the reserves I really must experiment in the next couple of games to see whether one or other of them might not fit in well in the full international side."

This leaves him on the horns of a dilemma, since he would also like to see the Basle line-up play together more and get used to one another.

Against Holland in Eindhoven and France in Hanover the team will demonstrate whether better harmony, greater self-confidence and the respect due to a reigning European championship side have really resulted in further improvements.

Switzerland was hardly a suitable match on which to judge matters, let alone to make comparisons with the side that won the 1972 European championship in Sweden.

Even so, the present side has an unbroken run of 20 wins and one can but hope it continues. "You get used to it, and the longer it lasts the less you would like to lose it," the trainer says.

Team captain Bernhard Dietz of Duisburg is already thinking in terms of a round figure: an unbroken run of 25. If this happens both the trainer and his squad may consider they have as good as qualified for the 1982 World Cup.

Raimund Holle

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 12 September 1980)



Victory in sight: Felix Magath scores as West Germany surges to a 3-2 win over Switzerland.
(Photo: dpa)

Gymnast Carmen Rischer modifies routine

Champion gymnast Carmen Rischer from Wattenscheid was at her best in the first of two qualifying events for the European championships, to be held in Amsterdam at the end of October.

A crowd of 600 in Rodgau-Weiskirchen saw her score 38.8 points to win well ahead of reigning national champion Anke Abraham (38.3) and Regina Weber (37.4), both from Lüneburg.

She looked much more self-assured than at the national championships and had scrapped the tougher parts of her routine.

Her sole fault was with the ribbon, in which she scored only 9.55 points, whereas Regina Weber dropped her hoop twice and scored only 8.4 points in that particular discipline.

Eduard Friedrich of the Federal Competitive Sports Committee praised the sovereign way in which Carmen Rischer had made sure of victory.

He also congratulated the runner-up, Anke Abraham, on a well-balanced performance and Karin Ludwig from Mosbach, who came fourth, on her improved showing.

On TV afterwards Anke Abraham still reckoned Regina Weber was the better of the two Lüneburg girls:

"You can always make a mistake in a difficult move but in terms of sheer ability Regina is definitely my better."

Women's coach Livia Medilanski may agree. We shall know if she only lines up Anke Abraham on the substitutes' bench in Amsterdam.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 15 September 1980)

Former team boss Schön still active

Helmut Schön, who retired over two years ago after a 14-year stint as national soccer manager, is 65 but as active as ever.

"I thought you had retired long since but it hasn't seemed much like it as far as I can see," says his wife Annelies, who occasionally has to remind him not to overdo it.

Long after his official retirement Schön, a former German international from Dresden and the world's most successful soccer manager ever, still rushes from one appointment to the next.

On 15 September, his 65th birthday, Wiesbaden, for many years his home, and the West German Football Association held a reception in his honour at the city's *Staatstheater.*

On retiring after the 1978 World Cup tournament in Argentina he planned to devote more time to "the family, the dog, home life, concerts, the theatre, reading and generally taking it easier."

But he is still often enough in the limelight, is in great demand and continually invited to deliver lectures.

"I still have more than enough to do. If I were to accept every invitation I received I would be on the road all the time," he says.

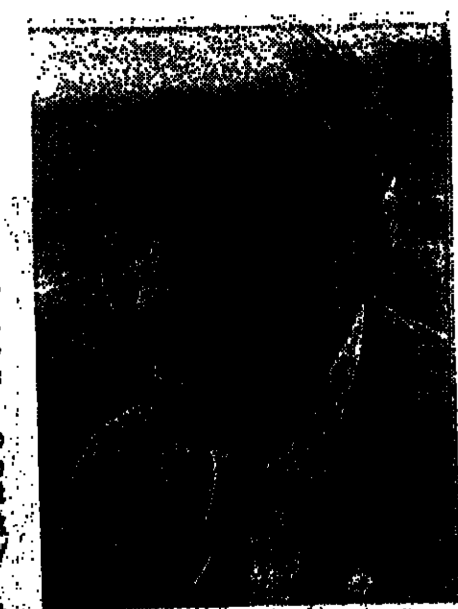
But at least he has been relieved of some of the burdens he has shouldered in a lifetime devoted to association football:

"My relationship with the game has changed. I no longer have to go through so many obligatory motions. I no longer have to nominate teams — or to win games."

So life is much easier, he feels, and his only wish as a 65-year-old is to continue watching good football for as long as possible in good health.

Good football as he used to play it himself (Schön was a first-rate technician of the game) was an advance birthday present he saw on TV when West Germany beat Switzerland 3:2 in Basle.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 13 September 1980)



Helmut Schön . . . life is easier.
(Photo: Holger Nagel)